

Listing of the claims

23. (Currently amended) A primer casing comprising a sleeve portion and a leading portion as integral components of a unitary piece, wherein the sleeve portion is adapted to receive a primer and comprises a blasthole engagement means as an integral part of the sleeve portion, and wherein the leading portion comprises a nose cone which is provided at one end and as an extension of the sleeve portion.
24. (Original) A casing according to claim ~~23~~, wherein the primer is in the form of a cylindrical cartridge.
25. (Original) A casing according to claim ~~23~~ or claim ~~24~~, wherein the sleeve portion defines a cylindrical passage into which the primer may be slidably inserted.
26. (Original) A casing according to claim ~~23~~, wherein the primer casing further comprises a primer retaining means.
27. (Original) A casing according to claim ~~23~~, wherein the apex of the nose cone is rounded.
28. (Original) A casing according to claim ~~23~~, wherein the blasthole engagement means comprises a projection from the sleeve portion.
29. (Original) A casing according to claim ~~23~~, wherein the blasthole engagement means is moveable between a retracted position and a blasthole engagement position.
30. (Original) A casing according to claim ~~29~~, wherein the blasthole engagement means is integral with the casing and attached thereto by a flexible hinge which enables movement between retracted and blasthole engagement positions.
31. (Original) A casing according to claim ~~29~~ or claim 30, wherein in the retracted position the blasthole engagement means abuts the sleeve portion.
32. (Currently amended) A casing according to any of claims 29 to 31 ~~28 to 30~~, wherein in the blasthole engagement position the projection is inclined outwardly relative to the primer casing and rearwardly relative to the leading portion.
33. (currently amended) A casing according to any of claims 29 to 31 ~~28 to 30~~, wherein the projection comprises at its end a blasthole wall engagement means.

<sup>12</sup>  
~~34.~~ (Original) A casing according to claim <sup>11</sup>~~23~~, further comprising a loading hose engaging means.

<sup>13</sup>  
~~35.~~ (Original) A casing according to claim <sup>12</sup>~~34~~, wherein the sleeve portion is adapted to engage the end of a loading hose.

<sup>14</sup>  
~~36.~~ (Original) A casing according to claim <sup>13</sup>~~35~~, wherein the sleeve portion adapted to engage the end of the loading hose has an internal dimension greater than the external dimension of the end of the loading hose.

<sup>15</sup>  
~~37.~~ (Original) A casing according to claim <sup>13</sup>~~35~~ or claim <sup>14</sup>~~36~~, further comprising means for preventing contact between the primer and loading hose when the loading hose is engaged by the sleeve portion.

<sup>16</sup>  
~~38.~~ (Original) A casing according to claim <sup>1</sup>~~23~~, comprising a number of apertures in the sleeve portion.

<sup>17</sup>  
~~39.~~ (Currently amended) A method of loading a blasthole, which method comprises the steps of inserting a primer into a primer casing as claimed in any of claims <sup>1</sup>~~23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35, or 36, or 38 and positioning the primer casing at a desired location in the blasthole.~~

<sup>18</sup>  
~~40.~~ (Original) A method of loading a blasthole, which method comprises the steps of inserting a primer into a primer casing as claimed in claim <sup>1</sup>~~23~~ and positioning the primer casing at a desired location in the blasthole, wherein the primer casing is positioned using a loading hose.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~41.~~ (Original) A method of loading a blasthole, which method comprises the steps of inserting a primer into a primer casing as claimed in claim <sup>1</sup>~~23~~, positioning the primer casing at a desired location in the blasthole, and charging the blasthole with bulk explosive.

<sup>20</sup>  
~~42.~~ (Original) A method of loading a blasthole, which method comprises the steps of inserting a primer into a primer casing as claimed in claim <sup>1</sup>~~23~~, positioning the primer casing at a desired location in the blasthole using a loading hose, and charging the blasthole with bulk explosive.